



**Brody**

When our friend Sue Morlan called, we thought we'd just catch up on our dogs and plans for shows ... but Sue had a question - Did we know anyone willing to foster a 12 year old Belgian cross? Not really, we said. But we'd think about it. And, we decided that it was time for us to take our turn. With seven dogs already, he'd have to be an easy-going animal. We were assured that he was and that he was healthy and neutered. How will a dog that old ever find a new home, we wondered. But we'd have support from rescue, so went to pick him up.

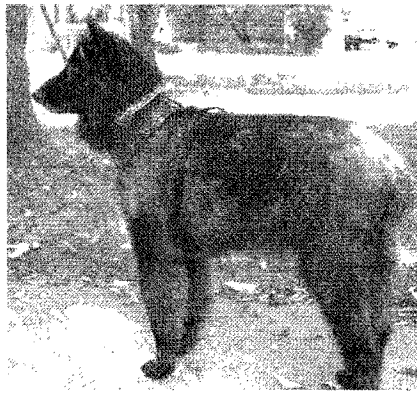
We met Sue and Sue at a strip mall, and were amazed at Brody's size. Huge. One very large ear flopped over, giving him a goofy expression. And he was as sweet as he was big. He waited patiently while we had lunch and went over his paperwork and then off we went. He was good in the car and we have learned that he loves car rides and will try all kinds of tricks to be sure he gets to go.

Our oldest male, Bear, wasn't thrilled to meet the new guy. The three youngest avoided him. The three oldest females liked him immediately. And to our delight, we found that he was a gentleman. He greeted everyone he met in a friendly manner, tail wagging. He would offer people his ball and happily chase and return it. Bear considered that silly - after all, if a person threw it away, it wasn't wanted, so why bother?

Always gentle taking a treat, he respected the other dogs' bowls and never tried to eat their food. He was wonderful on the leash and even though he's a bit hard of hearing, he comes when called (with the help of hand signals).

By now, the other dogs have accepted him. A wonderful dog, everyone agreed. Giving him up seemed impossible. We decided we couldn't.

So, we decided to adopt him. Now, he's our boy. Our very special, goofy, loving, big boy. However did we live without him? - Pat and Don Wright



**Pepper**

Old, stiff, overweight and not looking her best? No problem. We can relate! Pepper has been the perfect addition to our aging two human, four feline family. She is thoughtful, quiet and a bit of a homebody. She loves to snack and take naps. A kindred spirit!

Our biggest concern about bringing a dog into our home was that our poor cats might get bullied but we need not have worried. Pepper pretty much ignores them...even when they are rubbing up against her, walking under her belly or hinting that they would like to be invited to snuggle in that big cushy dog bed. Within days of arriving here she assumed the job of home protector, proudly alerting us to intruders on our street. (Usually those intruders are neighbors but she looks to us for guidance before progressing from a muttered hoo-hoo to full bark.)

She enjoys short walks on wooded trails or neighborhood streets and she has befriended a few pooches who visit the nearby park. Mostly she likes to sit at a safe distance and observe. Be the subject frolicking dogs, people doing yard work or busy pet store employees, Pepper wants to study them. She does like toys, with favorites she that she carries around the house. It only took her a day to train us to fill her Kong with cheese cubes when she brings it into the kitchen. Pepper's foster had warned us that she is a "counter surfer" so, when we humans are at work, the kitchen is off limits.

One day after Pepper had been here about a week, however, we failed to secure the baby gate. When we came home, everything looked normal with the exception of a strange, deformed object in the middle of the living room floor.

It was a previously unopened can of Nutro Senior Lamb and Rice that somebody removed from a new case of canned dog food atop the kitchen counter. The same counter held opened boxes of treats and opened bags of dry food that had not been touched. How Pepper managed to pull one can of food out of the case, then proceed to crush it and eat the contents boggles the mind. Despite having punctured metal, Pepper's tongue, gums and teeth were intact. (Well, a couple of her canines already were minus tips. Maybe now we know why.) She is self sufficient! And smart. And sweet. And we are delighted to have Pepper as a part of our family here in Pittsburgh. ps: Hats off to all of the volunteers who worked to save this wonderful old gal and to get her into the right home. Special thanks to BSDRT, the fosters and the transport drivers. - Casey Brown and Gregg Puchalski